

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Information for individuals, families and community agencies

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SHARED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Shared living is a vital and integral part of the continuum of care of individuals with Developmental Disabilities. The Department is committed to this service delivery option as it enhances and allows adults with Developmental Disabilities to live in their community.

The Department implemented the new rate models for all services effective July 1, 2011. There have been numerous questions raised concerning the rates for Shared Living and the Department's continued commitment to Shared Living. We reviewed and updated the Shared Living rate model effective October 1, 2011. In addition, new rates were also implemented effective January 1, 2012.

Per the chart below, the Department has increased the stipend for host families as compared to the stipend amount included in the FY11 rates. Stipends to host families continue to be non-taxable income and are paid on a daily basis if the individual is with the host family through midnight of the day being billed.

	FY 11	7/1/2011	10/1/2011	1/1/2012
Level 1	15,000	18,250	17,520	17,520
Level 2	18,000	21,170	21,170	21,170
Level 3	27,000	27,375	27,375	27,375
Level 4	32,000	32,850	32,850	32,850

Respite is a clinically vital component of shared living services to give both the individual and the host family, an opportunity to manage their lives and pursue alternative activities including emergency situations. The Department has a separate CMS approved rate, which is evidence of our commitment to the SLA providers and community. Respite is paid only when the service is provided. Respite can be billed in hourly or daily increments. When billing 9 hours or more in a single day then the daily rate must be used. When billing less than 9 hours in a single day then the hourly rate must be used. Respite income is taxable.

Respite amounts varied in each of the rates from July 1, 2011 forward. However the Department has closely maintained the combined respite and stipend amounts as compared to FY 2011. Maintaining these rates while other rates were decreased demonstrates the Department's commitment to Shared Living services.

In some cases, the host family transports the individual to and/or from the individual's day program. The Department has a separate rate for transportation that is billed for each trip provided. The SLA provider agency can bill for the transportation and reimburse the host family for the transportation. The reimbursement for transportation **is** taxable income.